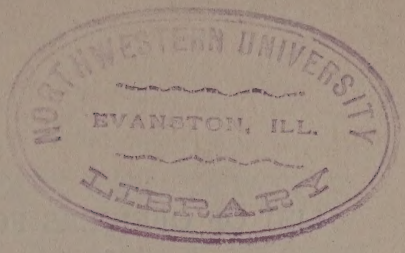
Indians



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GREETING

TO

EDUCATED INDIANS.

PHILADELPHIA:
INDIAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION,
1305 ARCH STREET.
1888.

LIST OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1888.

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VICE-PRESIDENT,

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TREASURER,

ROBERT FRAZER.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

HERBERT WELSH.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

A. B. WEIMER.

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William O. Butler,	James MacAlister,
F. Hazen Cope,	Charles E. Pancoast,
William Drayton,	Henry S. Pancoast,
Robert Frazer,	J. Rodman Paul,
W. W. Frazier, Jr.,	Dr. James E. Rhoads,
Philip C. Garrett,	Rev. H. L. Wayland, D.D.,
Rev. J. Andrews Harris, D.D.,	A. B. Weimer,
Prof. E. J. James,	Herbert Welsh,
J. Topliff Johnson,	James A. Wright,

Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker, D.D.

Press of Wm. F. Fell & Co.,
1220-24 Sansom St.,
Philadelphia.

THE INDIAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

(THE FOLLOWING IS A LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE DAKOTA PAMPHLET ENTITLED "IKCEOZATE OWOTANNA WICAKUWAPI KTA E OMNICIZE KIN," WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY REV. W. J. CLEVELAND, AND IS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY HIM).

This Society was organized about six years ago, on December 15th, 1882.

HOW BEGUN.

Mr. Herbert Welsh (nephew of Gray-hat) and a few good men who had compassion on the Indians, formed themselves into an association and resolved that, whatever befell, they would speak for the Indians and help them to become self-sustaining and upright men. They said they would act without pay, and that the Association might have money with which to carry on its work, they made it a law for themselves that every member should contribute two dollars each year.

Thus much was accomplished when they first met. Since then the Association has greatly increased, until, now, it exists in many cities, and the prominent men and women who have joined it are very many. Most of these are persons of wealth and position.

THEIR OBJECT.

One of the things they seek to do is to search out the condition of the Dakotas, and all other Indian tribes, and whatever hardships they may be enduring; and, further, to cause the President, Congress, and the whole American people, to hear of these things and give attention to them.

Also, if this Association hear that an Indian tribe is suffering hardship, and ought, for that reason, to receive aid, they investigate the facts and make known, all over the United States, what they find out. If they discover that help should be given, they push the giving of it in the Great-father's Council (Congress).

Then, further, if this Association know that, anywhere, the white people are deceiving any Indian tribe, or are treating them badly through unmanlikeness (meanness or injustice), they oppose the whites who are acting unjustly and endeavor to check their action.

They also try to secure that those who work under the Government—Agents, Physicians, Teachers and, in fact, all the employés at the Agencies—shall be men and women of the right kind.

Because they see clearly, for all the Indian tribes, that the only way possible for them to become self-supporting, and to grow more prosperous and strong in future, is for them, so soon as practicable, to be made citizens and, thereafter, be one people with the whites; therefore, at the present time, they seek to bestow upon them, and urge them to accept, three things in particular.

These are—I. Just Laws, similar to those of the whites. They urge them to accept this because if, together with the whites, they are all under law, then it is more likely both peoples will respect each other and deal with one another as men.

II. Good Schools. By this means, being well instructed, they ought, when associated hereafter with the whites, to be able to take care of themselves.

III. That they may be given valid titles to land. In this way every man would be able to hold securely a piece of land and to grow rich on what he raised; not working to no purpose, as is now the case.

THEIR METHODS.

They have placed a skillful man, Prof. C. C. Painter, at the seat of Government (Washington). When Congress is in session, he is always on hand to hear what is said, and, whenever the Indian tribes are mentioned in any way, or Members of Congress are trying to secure legislation on any matter which concerns them, he watches the progress of all such action and forwards the information he gathers to Mr. Herbert Welsh, the Secretary of this Association.

He also has frequent conferences with the President and members of his Cabinet, thus giving a right direction to some things; so that, on account of his words, there have been already

many instances of the better, and more wise, treatment of the Indian tribes.

This Association also frequently sends out, at its own expense, Gray-hat's Nephew, or Mr. J. B. Harrison, or some other representative, with instructions to go about amongst the several Indian tribes, and talk with them and to see, with their own eyes, how they are getting along. When their Agent returns from such a journey, he goes about making addresses in Churches and before Societies of different kinds, telling the people exactly what he has seen. Moreover, these things are published in the great newspapers, and, in addition, small pamphlets, like this, are printed in English, and given to many thousands of men and women who have influence, as well as to all the members of the Association.

During the past year, Gray-hat's Nephew made fourteen addresses in different Churches and before various Societies, on behalf of the Indians.

Prof. C. C. Painter made twenty-one such addresses.

Of papers written in aid of the Indian tribes there were printed (by this Association) 65,000 copies. The money expended by them during that time in this cause was $10,000.

There are already branch Societies in 28 Cities.

Such was the substantial character of their work during a single year. From this any one can see that this Association is constantly growing more able to accomplish something; and, for that reason, is fitted to help, as a good friend would, and to counsel very wisely, all those Dakotas who are striving to become upright and free men.

A FEW OF THE THINGS THEY HAVE DONE.

Part of the people on the Cheyenne River Reserve live a long way from the Agency, and a small town, called La Beau, was built, by the whites, quite near them. Although the town was close by them and the Agency a long distance off, yet their Agent said that they must not go to the town to trade, but must buy everything of the Trader at the Agency; and he exerted himself to force them to comply. When this Association learned that the people on the Cheyenne River Reserve had met with this difficulty, they called the attention of the Secretary of the Interior to the matter, and brought to his notice a *law* in which it had

been decreed that the Dakotas had the right to go into the white man's country to trade. Thus the severe words of the Agent at Cheyenne River Agency were torn to pieces.

At one time, certain white men were working to unjustly take from the Santees and Sissetons a large part of their country, and this Association defeated their effort.

They also helped the Winnebago tribe in the same way.

About three years ago, a few Commissioners almost succeeded in causing the Dakotas to do a great injury to themselves. At that time they were urged to sign a paper; and, although they did not well understand the purpose for which they were to sign it, a part of the people consented, and children, even infants, were made to "touch the pen." In that way a large number of names were secured.

The Commissioners then took these signatures back to Congress and, if nobody had said anything more about it, a large portion of the Dakota lands—all that lying between the White river and the Cheyenne—would have been thrown open, with but very small compensation.

But, when this was on the verge of being accomplished, the Indian Rights Association heard of the crooked action of the Commissioners, and, that they might trace out, and know exactly, what they had done, they immediately sent out Gray-hat's Nephew to the Dakota Reservation with instructions to make careful search and learn fully what the Commissioners had said to the Dakotas, and what had been done.

When he returned and they then knew assuredly that the Commissioners had acted unrighteously and badly, they proclaimed these facts all over the United States. They also inaugurated a strong opposition in Congress, and by this means killed what the Commissioners had tried to accomplish. For this, certainly, the Dakotas have reason to be very thankful to them.

Then, again, they did a great service for the people at the Crow Creek Agency. This was the way it happened. One of the Presidents, apparently without thinking what he did, of his own accord, threw open to the whites about half (five hundred thousand, 500,000, acres) of the Crow Creek Reservation. The white settlers at once poured in and, although by that time they

had already built themselves many houses, this Association took the part of the Indians, and, though a very difficult matter, they pushed it courageously until, finally, they succeeded in removing the white settlers and reinstated the Indians in possession of the lands they had all but lost.

Again, they petitioned Congress that the Indian children might be more thoroughly taught, and secured a much larger annual appropriation of money for school purposes than was formerly made.

Also, in some instances, when portions of Indian tribes were in danger of starving to death, this Association, upon hearing of it, has petitioned Congress on their behalf, and so saved their lives.

The above are specimens of their work; many of their undertakings being of great difficulty and involving large expenditure of money; but what we should, perhaps, regard as their greatest achievement is the successful waking up of the better class of white people to consider, and the enlightening them on the present condition of the various Indian tribes. On account of this fact, both the American people and the Indians will be likely hereafter to deal more wisely, mercifully and justly with each other, especially in making an agreement about any matter, than they have done in the past.

If, now, the Dakotas also get a clear view of how this Association works, they will feel assured that, whenever they are set upon overtaking any worthy and upright aim, friends are not wanting to them among the white people.

Notwithstanding the fact that such is the nature of this Association and that it is composed of good men only, they have been much snarled at and abused. However, though such be the case, they intend, without giving heed to it, still more industriously to exert themselves to secure, as time goes on, just dealing on the part of the whites toward all Indian tribes.

For this purpose they propose to expend during the present year, no less than twenty thousand dollars ($20,000).

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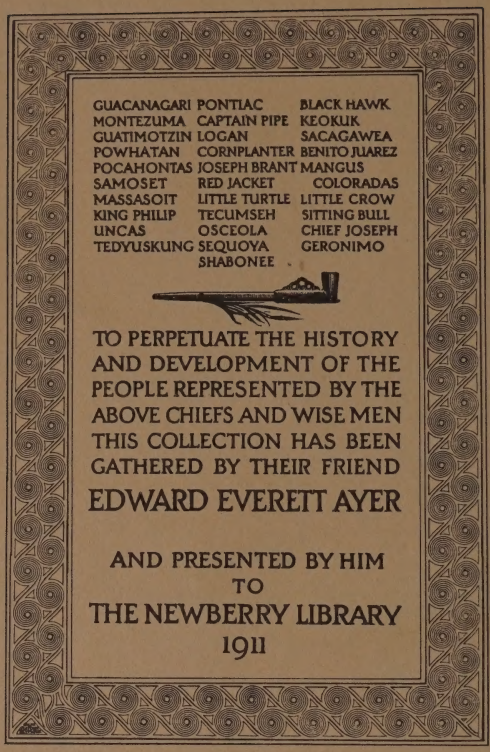

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